Excess Utilisation of ground water

†4375. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the largest quantity of water is utilised in irrigation sector out of the total quantity of water utilised in the country at present;

(b) if so, the quantity of water utilised for irrigation purpose out of the total quantity of water utilised;

(c) the quantity of underground water as well as ground water being utilised at present for irrigation purpose; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that the level of underground water in the country is falling due to its excess utilisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) and (b) The total water use, as in the year 2000, was estimated to be 605 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) per annum for all kinds of uses. Out of this, it was estimated that water use for agriculture was 501 BCM which works out to 84% of the total water use.

(c) At the end of the Ninth Five Year Plan, total irrigation utilisation (gross) is estimated to be 94.08 million hectare, out of which 44.96 million hectare is through ground water and remaining through surface water.

(d) Long term observations made by the Central Ground Water Board under Minister of Water Resources have shown a decline in the ground water levels in certain parts of the country due to over-exploitation of ground water.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.